AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the abstract with the following:

A ~~method and apparatus for warehousing information in a~~ wallet consolidator to process a transaction and related methods, are provided. An embodiment of a~~The~~ wallet consolidator can include~~includes~~ a controller ~~for~~to controlling~~ operation of the wallet consolidator, and an input device connected to the controller and positioned to receive a copy of information. The input device, for example, can include a magnetic stripe reader/writer for reading and writing magnetic stripes, a bar code scanner for scanning bar codes, or a keypad, among others, ~~for~~to inputting~~ user selections and commands~~;~~. An embodiment of a~~The~~ wallet consolidator can also include a memory for storing information provided to the wallet consolidator, and an output device connected to the controller and positioned to transmit at least a portion of the information stored in the memory device to a computer device, e.g., point-of-sale terminal, dumb terminal, and/or database, located at a point-of-sale, to process a transaction. The output device can include a wireline communications interface, a wireless communications interface, a radio frequency (RF) interface, or an infrared (IR) interface, among others. ~~a smart card interface for effectuating communication between the wallet consolidator and a smart card and a display screen for displaying text and graphics, the display screen further for displaying a bar code pattern capable of being scanned by a bar code reader. To store information in the wallet consolidator, or alternatively in a smart card interfaced to the wallet consolidator, information is read from magnetic stripes on various types of cards such as, but not limited to, credit, debit and identification cards. Additionally, images of the cards including, but not limited to, signatures and portraits are downloaded and stored. A user retrieves the information from any of the stored magnetic stripes and writes the information to a single magnetic stripe for use in a point of sale transaction. Similarly, stored images are retrieved and displayed on a display screen including a bar code which can be scanned by a bar code scanner.~~